

(Mr. DEUTSCH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BENTSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the 8 million unemployed in this country must be watching the debate on economic stimulus in this House and in the other body with amazement and sadness. They are hardworking families who have struggled to pay their bills, and they now find themselves without work. They have worked hard, played by the rules, trying to build a better future for themselves and their families, and then have been laid off, both before and after September 11.

□ 2230

They are 137,000 workers in the transportation industry, 136,000 in the hospitality industry, 57,000 in the communications industry, 226,000 in manufacturing, 14,000 in retail, 44,000 in the service sector, 30,000 people in my district at the Boeing company, and in finance and real estate, another 24,000.

The overall jobless rate in this country shot up from 4.9 percent in September to 5.4 percent in October. In Washington State, it went from 5.1 percent to 6.1 percent. That is a 20 percent increase in a month. Now, this does not reflect everything, because there are many families who are denied benefits because the rules have been changed over the last few years. And they, although they contributed, do not have access to these benefits, or they find it virtually impossible to find employment under the present economic conditions.

This week, with several of my colleagues, we introduced H.R. 3741, the Putting Americans First Act, which will at once provide a short-term en-

hanced safety net for those who lost their jobs. This bill empowers the States to expand unemployment coverage for 26 weeks, provide COBRA coverage, that is to cover premiums for health care and also to aid the State Medicaid benefit programs. It also addresses the needs of States whose welfare loads are increasing. Because every time we have a 1 percent increase in unemployment, the welfare load goes up between 5 and 15 percent.

I urge my colleagues to go home to their States, talk to their people, and they will find out that these are the problems that are bothering them. People in this country are hurting and they are mourning. They are having trouble paying their rent, they are having trouble paying their heating bills, they are having trouble putting clothes on their kids and paying for schools, and certainly they are not ready for a medical emergency.

Many States, however, are finding their own budgets in shambles because of the recession and because of tax bills that we passed in this House which took away some of their revenue. We have a situation, as described in The New York Times today, where 30 States are considering tax hikes or wide-spread cuts in benefits. Connecticut, this week, is \$300 million in debt, and they are working in their legislature. Our legislature is working on a \$1.2 billion cut. Infusing Federal money into these State programs through unemployment insurance and Medicaid will help the States continue some of the most important programs.

Now, if we look at it, some States, Illinois, New York, North Dakota, West Virginia, Texas, do not even have enough money for 6 months of unemployment benefits, not even in their local funds. If we do not put some money in from the Federal Government, they are going to have to cut lots of people off. There are an additional 17 States that have less than a year.

Now, crafting an economic stimulus package has been exceedingly difficult because it cuts to the heart of the difference between the Democrat and Republican core values. Here is the Republican argument: Corporations and entrepreneurs are the driving force in this country. They create the jobs. Tax incentives and cuts and rebates will directly help those groups, who will stimulate the economy.

However, the reason corporations are not investing right now to create more jobs is not because they do not have enough cash on hand. Let us not kid ourselves. Lots of large companies have cash. The reason they are not investing right now is because there is a lack of demand. If these companies manufacture products, not enough people buy them. The best way to create jobs is to provide unemployment insurance to laid-off workers so that they can buy the necessities of their life.

Why is it we are told by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle

that we do not have the money for these benefits for people? They say, well, we are just out of luck. But when we passed the budget here and we passed a stimulus package out of the House of Representatives, we could find \$25 billion to give back taxes to the major corporations of this country, who have been paying them since 1986. We had the money.

We should pass this bill and help these people at Christmas time. It is the American way.

COMMEMORATING THE LIVES OF HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for half of the remaining time until midnight tonight as the designee of the minority leader, approximately 42 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), who represents the Congressional District in North Carolina which adjoins my Congressional District, and I got together and decided to try to make an effort to commemorate some of the lives of some of the people who were lost in the events of September 11. This was out of a sense of our own grief and loss, and the feeling that we should try to do something to honor the memory of these heroes.

We have been trying to do 1-minute speeches on several occasions, but that did not work out too well. So we reserved this time this evening to do a more extended special order in memory of some of the heroes who died in the events of September 11.

I am delighted to share this idea and effort with my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), and I will now yield to her for her opening statement, and then we will go into it.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

Very simply, this is just a time for us to say that we appreciated these people. Some of them were heroes to their families, some were heroes to their country, and I have one gentleman in my district whose father was a victim in New York, and I wanted to say just a word about him.

His name was William Wren. My constituent's name is Christopher Wren. William grew up in Brooklyn and